

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-10 IO-13

SAJ-01 /088 W

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O R 191425Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2731

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

DIA WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 5701

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IS, LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI NAVAL ACTIVITY OFF LEBANON

REF: TEL AVIV 5661

1. AUGUST 19 ISSUE OF DAVAR PUBLISHED FOLLOWING REPORT
HEADLINED "ISRAEL PROMISES NOT TO INTERFERE WITH SOVIET
VESSELS" BY ITS WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT (BARNEA).

2. BEGIN TEXT: ISRAEL HAS INFORMED THE UNITED STATES
THAT IT WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH VESSELS CARRYING
SOVIET ARMS TO THE PALESTINIAN FORCES IN LEBANON IF
THESE VESSELS DO NOT SAIL OPPOSITE THE ISRAELI COAST
IN THE AREA WHERE ISRAEL MAINTAINS CONTROL OVER MOVE-
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MENT OF SHIPS TO AND FROM LEBANON.

3. THE UNITED STATES IS EXPECTED TO CONVEY A MESSAGE
IN THIS SPIRIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, IN RESPONSE TO
THE SOVIET MESSAGE TO WASHINGTON.

4. THE REASSURING ISRAELI MESSAGE WAS CONVEYED TO
THE UNITED STATES AT A MEETING BETWEEN AMBASSADOR
DINITZ AND SECRETARY KISSINGER ON TUESDAY. DINITZ
WAS REPORTED YESTERDAY TO BE PLANNING A MID-SEPTEMBER
VISIT TO ISRAEL FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT.

.4. DINITZ HAS NOT VISITED ISRAEL SINCE THE INTERIM
AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS A YEAR AGO.

5. ISRAELI OFFICIALS WERE AT PAINS YESTERDAY TO
EXPLAIN WHY THE ISRAELI AND AMERICAN SPOKESMEN HAD
BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DENY THAT CLAIMS OF AN ISRAELI
BLOCKADE WERE REISED AT THE KISSINGER-DINITZ MEETING.
ONE OF THE SOURCES ASSERTED THAT NO MENTION WAS MADE
OF THE SUBJECT BECAUSE THERE IS NO ISRAELI BLOCKADE
AND THE AMERICANS ARE AWARE OF THATM END TEXT.

6. EDITORIAL COMMENT HAS CALLED ATTENTION TO THE
REACTION OF THE ISRAELI MEDIA TO THE ALLEGED
BLOCKADE. ALL HAMISHMAR THOUGHT THE BEHAVIOIR OF ISRAELI
TELEVISION STRANGE FOR GIVING PROMINENCE TO REPORTS OF
A BLOCKADE, THUS REQUIRING A DENIAL BY DEFENSE MINISTER
PERES. HA'ARETZ' MARGALIT WROTE THAT US DISPLEASURE
OVER ISRAELI PRESS "EXAGGERATION" OF REPORTS OF
A BLOCKADE WAS CONVEYED IN TUESDAY'S KISSINGER -DINITA
MEETING. ACCORDING TO MARGALIT, WASHINGTON THINKS
ISRAELI MEDIA TREATMENT FORCED THE USSR TO PROTECT
THE BLOCKADE, THEREBY EMBARRASSING THE U.S. ON THE
OTHER HAND, THE MILITARY REPORTER FOR MA'ARIV SUGGESTS
THAT THE PLO IN THEIR DESPERATION ARE EXAGGERATING
ISRAELI INVOLVEMENT IN OFDER TO FORCE THE SOVIETS
INTO PRACTICAL ACTION.

7. OTHER EDITORIAL COMMENT POINTS TO SEVIET RELUC-
TANCE TO CRITICIZE SYRIAN INTERVENTION DIRECTLY AND
NOTES SOVIET READINESS TO ATTACK FOREIGN INTER-
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VENTION IN LEBANON. THE SOVIET PROTEST OVER AN
ALLEGED BLOCKADE AND SOVIET MEDIA ATTACKS ON ISRAELI
INTERVENTION ARE DESCRIBED IN THIS LIGHT.
TOON

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